

## **European Democratic Mayors' statement on the governance of the EU's long-term budget**

*As the party of Mayors and Regions, the European Democratic Party champions subsidiarity and genuine multilevel governance, consistent with our 2024 Manifesto's 'Vibrant Regions' agenda and our long-standing belief in bringing EU decisions closer to citizens.*

*We welcome the European Parliament's scrutiny and the European Commission's recent adjustments to its MFF proposal, but they remain insufficient and leave core governance issues unresolved. The EDP calls for clear legal guarantees to reinstate regional and local authorities in EU fund governance, ring fence cohesion resources, and fight against recentralisation.*

*We urge co-legislators to include these legal guarantees explicitly, clarify ambiguous drafting, and entrench multilevel partnership as a binding principle across the MFF architecture.*

*European Democrats will work to secure these improvements so cohesion policy and the EU budget remain place based, transparent and responsive to citizens' local needs.*

François Bayrou, EDP President and Mayor of Pau

Sandro Gozi, EDP Secretary General

François Decoster, on behalf of Democratic mayors